

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00722 111044Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----072142 121522Z /53

R 101406Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 499
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 722

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS FROM CONSUL GENERAL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJ: SETTLEMENTS

REF: JERUSALEM 718

1. IN REFERENCED MESSAGE, WE ARE SUMMARIZING BEGIN GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE WEST BANK TO DATE. IN REVIEWING OUR RECORD, WE ARE STRUCK BY THE HECTIC PACE OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY OF THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT. SINCE BEGIN TOOK OFFICE IN JUNE, 1977, 14 NEW SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE WEST BANK, TWO NEW ONES HAVE BEEN SET UP IN NO-MAN'S LAND, AND THREE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN LEGITIMIZED. THIS, WE STRESS, IS ONLY FOR THE WEST BANK AREA AND DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, GAZA OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, TO SAY NOTHING OF EAST JERUSALEM.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THE RANGE OF DIFFICULT ISSUES WHICH ARE ON THE AGENDA OF THE BEGIN VISIT. CONCERNING
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SETTLEMENTS, HOWEVER, OUR CONCLUSION HERE IS THAT UNLESS BEGIN CAN SOMEHOW BE BROUGHT TO HALT SETTLEMENTS, AT LEAST DURING NEGOTIATIONS, AN ALREADY EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT ISSUE WILL BE MADE PROGRESSIVELY WORES.

3. IN ADDITION TOSHEER NUMBERS, LIKUD GOVERNMENT HAS SITED SETTLEMENTS IN RELATIVELY DENSELY POPULATED ARAB AREAS

RATHER THAN IN SPARCELY POPULATED JORDAN VALLEY AS WAS CASE OF
UNDER LABOR ALIGNMENT.
NEWLIN

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NNN

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